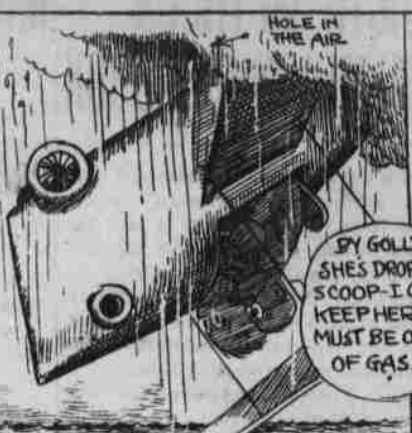


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NOT ONE OF THE TWELVE THOUSAND
HOUSES IN YPRES REMAINS INTACT

(By Associated Press.)

YPRES, Belgium, July 17.—The last tenacious inhabitants of Ypres were dragged from their underground refuges and taken by force to places of safety a fortnight ago; the cellars themselves had ceased to afford protection from the continual pounding of the German shells. The town today looks like an unearthed imitation of Pompeii; not one of its 12,000 houses is intact and not a dozen of those that remain partly erect are repairable. The ancient pride of Flanders, if it ever rises from its ruins, must be entirely rebuilt from the foundations. Of the famous hall, which three weeks ago still showed a semblance of resistance, there remains nothing but a single little tower standing out against the sky like a gigantic finger raised in protest. The only part of the walls remaining is a battered breached remnant on the side of the "Grand Place." Only here and there is it possible by close inspection to discover any trace of the details of its former architectural beauty.

There were 10,000 people here three weeks ago and it was still possible to enjoy a cup of tea at the cafe on the "Grand Place," while contemplating the agonizing "Halls"; today the only living creatures that remain are two cats sticking to the debris of their homes in the Rue de Thourout. No one knows what they live on and the British soldiers have been unable to capture them.

The dead silence that has fallen here is broken only by the occasional shell that stirs up the ruins, by the German guns firing over the town at Poperinge, and by the musketry and machine gun fire from the trenches close by to the south. The silence is oppressive toward dusk when the artillery fire becomes desultory.

Protected by the ruins, one may approach so close to the first line as to get a vivid and auricular impression of what is going on in the trenches. The "Pang! Pang! Pang!" of the rifles with intervals of the "Pang-a-pang-a-pang" of the machine guns become more intermittent as night falls, and then comes from the trenches the surprising contrast of the refrain, "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," with the accompaniment of a piano that the Tommies have dug out of the ruins and requisitioned for evening diversion.

The final destruction of Ypres followed the attack with asphyxiating gas. It is the common belief in Belgium that the wiping out of the town was a premeditated revenge for the failure of the effort to occupy it. Shells intended for the British lines or for the batteries in the rear might easily stray into the town, but, they say, the aim of the Germans is good enough not to waste in that way the thousands of tons of ammunition required to reduce the place to a stone heap, and the only military importance of the town is its proximity to the battle front. Counting the shots that went wide of any structure, it is estimated that more than a hundred thousand of different calibres were spent on Ypres. Thousands more were used during the gas attack along the route from Ypres to Furnes by which the allies were expected to send reinforcements. All along the road for a few miles, deep funnel-shaped holes, sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other and often full in the center, still show how seriously the operation was organized. One of them lies directly in front of an enclosed plot of ground covered with field flowers above which rise fourteen crosses. Here were buried the remains of a little detachment of British troops that were sought out by one of the sixteen inch German shells while resting in an abandoned cottage on the edge of Ypres.

The eventual restoration of Ypres raises conflicting views, all of which originate from sentiment, for the town has long ago lost all commercial importance. The attachment of the inhabitants to the soil calls for restoration and to this is opposed the feeling that Ypres must remain as it is—a monument to the suffering of Flanders. If the town is rebuilt, say some of those who loved it for its traditions, let it be farther on along the banks of the Yser, while the ruins of the ancient town remain enclosed within monumental walls for the world to see in ages to come.

COMSTOCK BURGLAR MAKES
OFF WITH THE SINKIt is stated that from one empty
house entered recently in this city.

a new one in the burglary line, and shows that the trade is becoming a versatile one, in this city, at least.—Virginia Chronicle.

MRS. JOHNSON EXONERATED

Mrs. Johnson, held at Goldfield for killing Dan Mushedra, was exonerated by the coroners' jury yesterday afternoon with the statement that it was

SUBMITTED ON BRIEFS

The case of Fredenberg against Controller Cole came up before the supreme court Thursday. It is a man-

damus proceeding to compel the controller to audit the salary of Mr. Fredenberg for his services as engineer to the railroad and public service commissions. It was submitted on briefs.—Appeal.

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